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25X1IRAN: At War with the US

[The Khomeini regime views itself at war with the US, which is viewed not only as a foe of Iran but the chief enemy of all Islam.] Iran's ruling clerics consider they have a religious duty to purge the Muslim world of the corrupting influences of non-Islamic powers and oust any local government that facilitates US or Western penetration of the Islamic world. The regime makes no distinction between military or civilian targets or tactics, and it increasingly appears willing to strike at its enemies' interests anywhere in the world.

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Although Iran's relations with Moscow are strained, it is the US that still preoccupies Tehran. The regime believes that the US is anti-Islamic, not only in its policy of supporting Israel, but in its essence.

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Cultural influences from the US are seen as a persistently corrosive force, seducing Muslims away from the Islamic way of life. US support for regimes hostile to Iran and connections with Iranian exiles are viewed as signs that the US is trying to destroy Iran's Islamic Republic.

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Lebanon provides an ideal setting for Iranian activity because Tehran can present the conflict there in terms that bolster its religiously-defined view of the struggle against the US. Among many Muslims, the US is identified with the Christian minority in Lebanon.

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The Multinational Force is seen as a creature of the US and as the main prop for continued Christian dominance. US strategic cooperation with Israel and the confrontation with Arab Syria is cited as evidence that the US is fundamentally hostile to Arabs and Muslims.

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Iranian Activity in the Middle East

To further its struggle against the US, Iran has established connections with militant Islamic groups, not only in Lebanon, but throughout the Muslim world. According to [redacted] Tehran is providing financial, and military support, for example, to several dissident Shia groups from the Arab states in the Persian Gulf.

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The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain--headquartered in Tehran--attempted with Iranian assistance to overthrow the Bahrain government in December 1981. The Islamic Front for the Liberation of the Arabian Peninsula--also centered in Tehran--recruits Shias from Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province. The Islamic Call Party of Iraq aims to overthrow of Baath regime in Iraq and has been responsible for numerous terrorist acts inside Iraq.

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[Over the past four years, Iran has trained hundreds of Gulf Shias in subversion and terrorism. Some have returned home to form cells and to recruit for the cause of Islamic fundamentalism.]

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Iran thus is establishing an infrastructure for subversive actions throughout the Gulf. In Bahrain, a power plant was sabotaged earlier this year by Iranian-trained members of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain who returned from Iran to work at the plant. According to Kuwaiti authorities, the driver of the truck that exploded at the US Embassy in Kuwait last week was an Iraqi Shia who probably was a member of the Iranian-sponsored Islamic Call Party of Iraq.

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The Kuwait bombings served several Iranian purposes. They struck at Islam's chief enemies, the US and the French, indicating that the institutions of both elsewhere in the region will be at risk. Iran probably also intended to warn Gulf rulers to end their support of Iraq.

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Additional operations are likely, especially if Iraq escalates its air war against Iranian oil exports.

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provide coordinates for desalinization plants in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

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### The Global Arena

The Iranians appear increasingly willing to operate on their enemies' home ground. Attacks inside the US directed against federal buildings and senior US officials, for example, are a real danger. Iran is cooperating with several international terrorist groups, according to a variety of reports.

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for example, President Khamenei approved earlier this month sending two representatives to Damascus to meet with officials of the Black June Organization, headed by Abu Nidal. Black June has sought Iranian support and has promised as a demonstration of its good faith to attack unspecified French targets.

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In addition, an extensive "subversive network" directed by Iranian diplomats in Paris. Iranian intelligence agents and Muslim sympathizers are also active in Austria. Iranian representatives have incited dissident demonstrations and opposition to governments in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Nigeria.

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Iran may also be increasing cooperation with Syria--already extensive in Lebanon--to include hitting common enemies within and beyond the Middle East. reported recently that Tehran and Damascus are considering attacking US interests in Europe, with London, Paris, or Athens the most likely targets. They are also cooperating in training for attacks against Iranian exiles in Paris.

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### Prospects

Iranian involvement in terrorism is likely to increase both in frequency and scope because the effect is immediate and spectacular, and directly supports Iran's goal of driving Islam's enemies from the Muslim world. Escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, moreover, is likely to push Iran into using its network of subversives already in place in the Gulf states to hit back at Iraq and its Western and Arab supporters.

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There appears to be broad consensus among Iran's ruling clerics for such activity. Ayatollah Montazeri, Khomeini's heir presumptive, as well as clerics who disagree with many of the regime's domestic proposals are deeply involved in promoting Iranian subversion. [REDACTED]

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Perceptions of weak US reactions to the attacks would also probably spur the Iranians to increase their terrorism. Iranian leaders consistently boast--in Khomeini's words--that the "US can't do a damn thing" to stop them. [REDACTED]

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On the other hand, the Khomeini regime changes its policy when it perceives a threat to its vital interests. A price hawk in OPEC through the fall of 1981, Iran lowered its prices when foreign currency reserves fell low enough to jeopardize its ability to pay for the war. [REDACTED]

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The decision to release the US hostages in late 1980 was partly caused by fear that the new US Administration would take strong action against Iran. This summer, after a year without major battlefield successes against Iraq and growing opposition at home, Tehran lowered casualties by shifting from large-scale attacks to a war of attrition. [REDACTED]

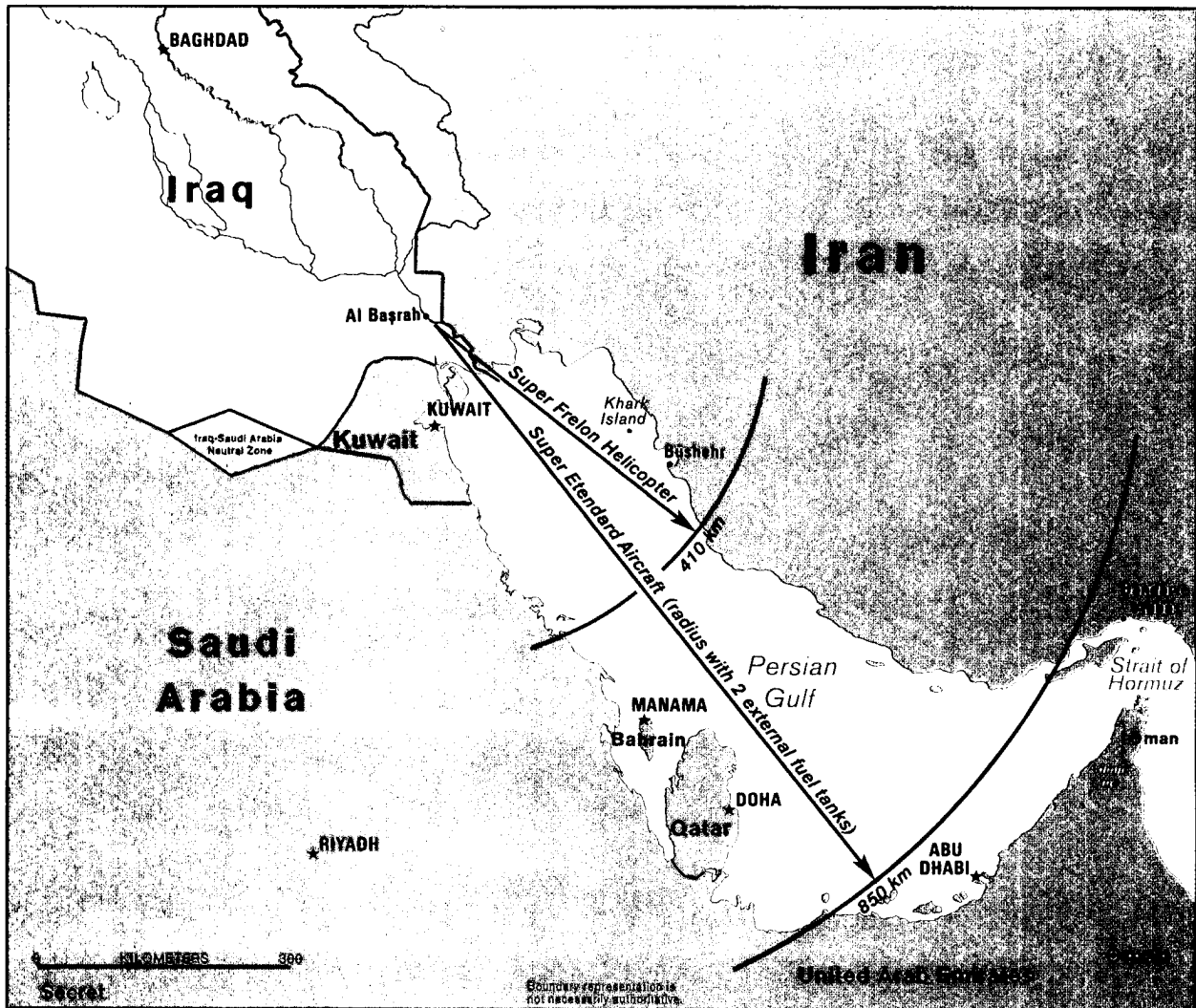
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# Radius of French-Built Iraqi Aircraft Carrying Exocet Missiles



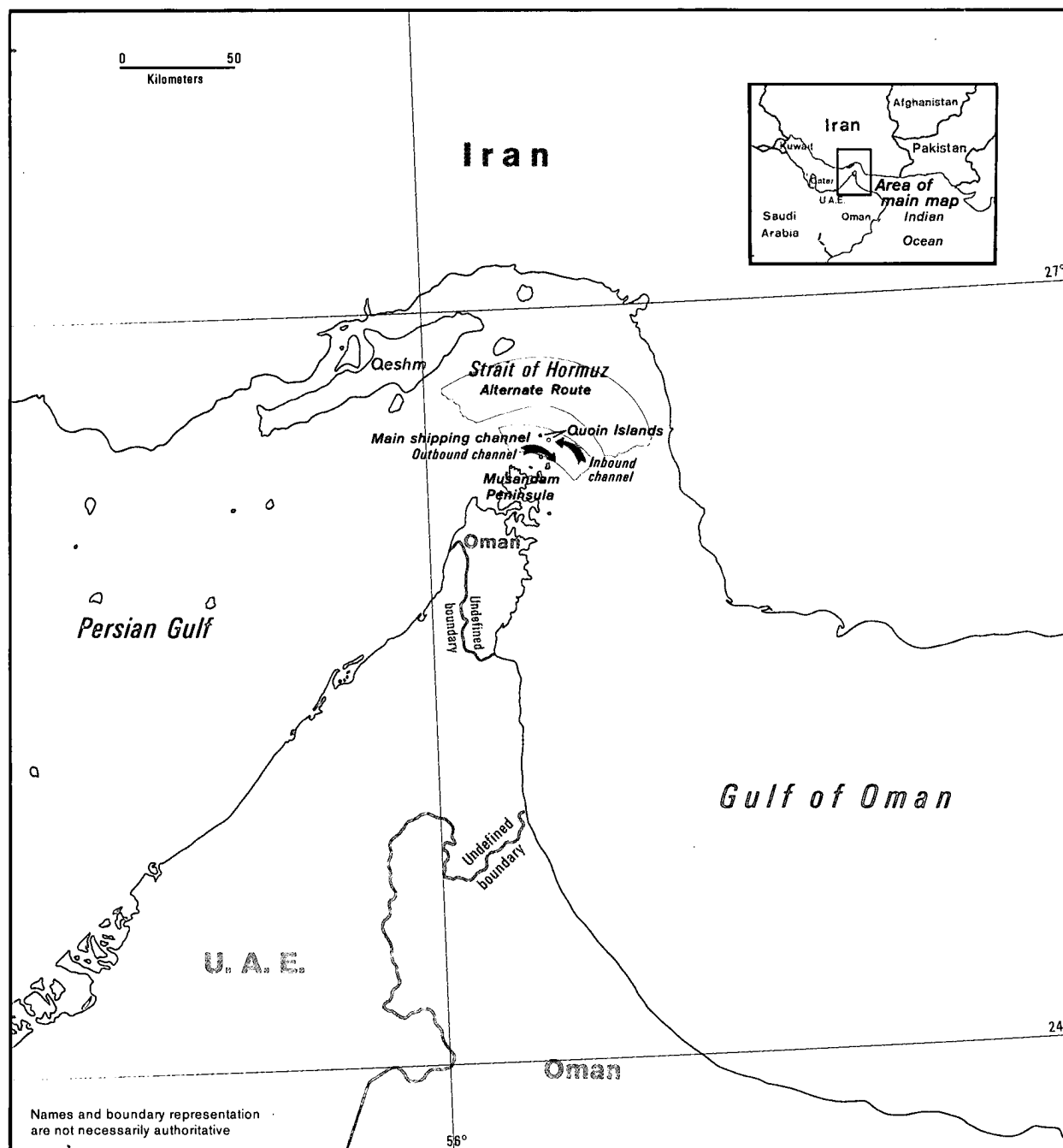
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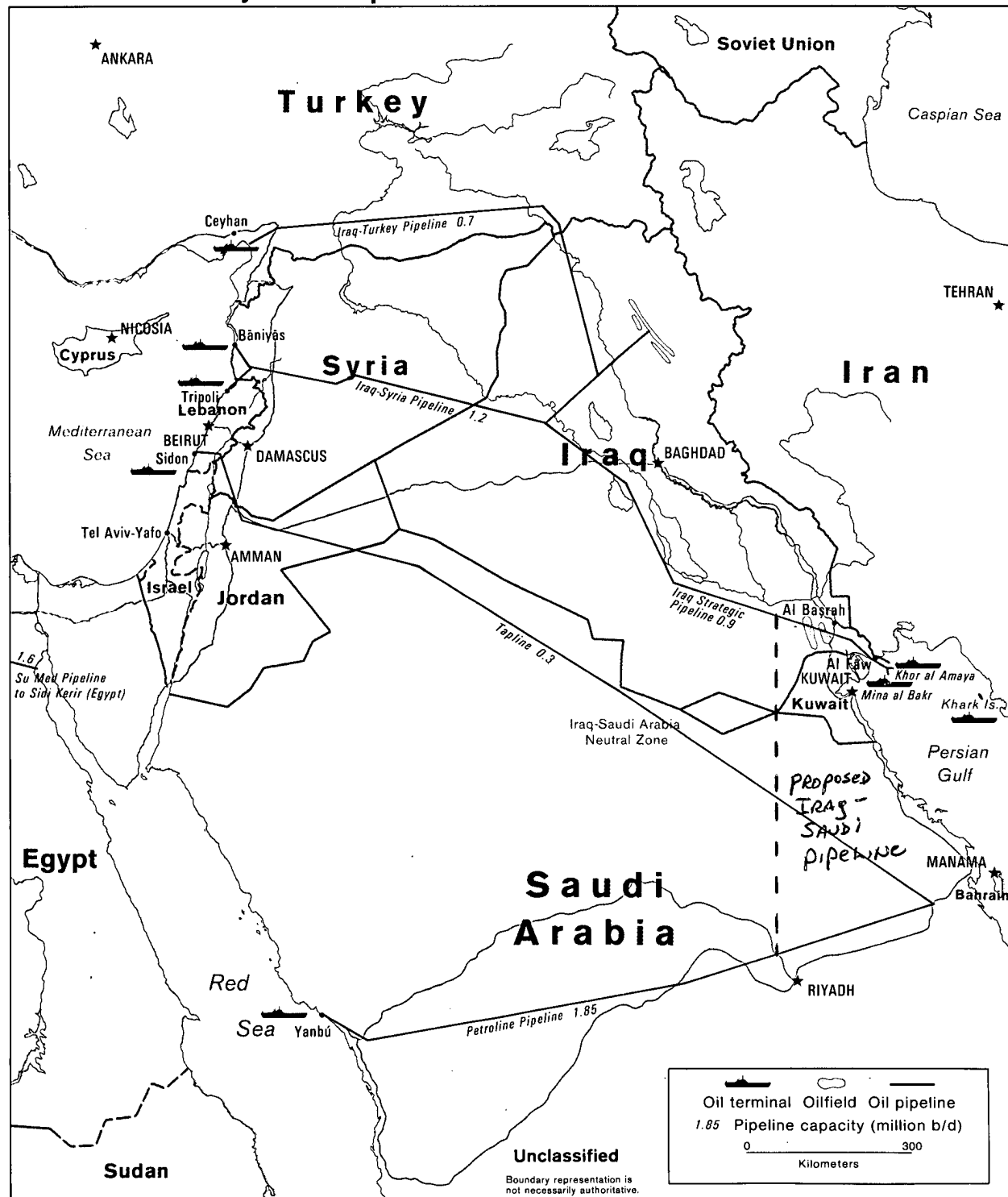
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## Middle East: Major Oil Pipelines and Terminals



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# Iran-Iraq Border, November 1983



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